

# NRCS Conservation Programs in Nebraska

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# AWEP FY2014

- **Authority repealed - combined with RCPP**
- **Existing FY2014 AWEP applications**
  - **Transferred to EQIP**
- **Existing contracts are valid**
  - **359 active contracts**
  - **32,309 acres**

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



# **RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

RCPP is a new regional program that:

- Furthers the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water, and wildlife on a regional scale.
- Encourages partners to cooperate with producers.
- Provides assistance through:
  - Partnership agreements
  - Program contracts or easement agreements
- Combines and replaces the purposes and functions of:
  - Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
  - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program (CBWP)
  - Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)
  - Great Lakes Basin Program for Erosion and Sediment Control

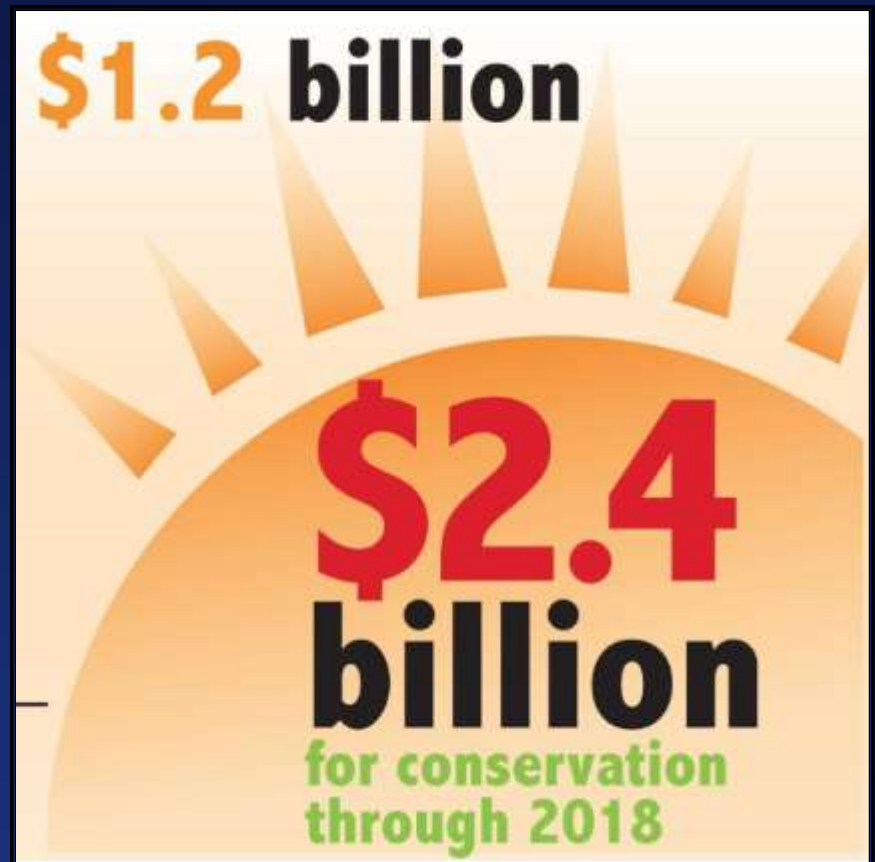
# **RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

RCPP program contracts and easement agreements with producers are implemented through covered programs:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

# RCPP Funding:

- \$100 million each year directly from the Farm Bill
- Also, by reserving 7% of funds from the four covered programs (ACEP, CStP, EQIP, HFRP) reserved annually through April 1st
- Over five years, USDA plans to invest up to \$1.2 billion with partners matching funding that could be as much as \$2.4 billion for conservation





# Allocates funding by:

- 40% for projects based on a national competitive process;
- 25% for a state competitive process administered by the State Conservationist, and;
- 35% for projects in critical conservation areas.



# National Funding Pool

- Priority will be given to multistate projects.
- National priorities for FY 2014/2015:
  1. Water quantity;
  2. Water quality;
  3. Soil health;
  4. At risk species habitat, and;
  5. Air quality.



# State Funding Pool

- Applications must address at least one National or State identified priority resource concern
- Applications for State funding pool must be geographically located entirely within Nebraska.

# Priority Resource Concerns for Nebraska

- **Degraded Plant Condition**
  - Undesirable plant productivity and health
  - Inadequate structure and composition
  - Excessive plant pest pressure
  - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation
- **Livestock Production Limitation**
  - Inadequate water
  - Inadequate feed and forage
  - Inadequate shelter
- **Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat**
  - Inadequate cover/shelter
  - Inadequate food
  - Inadequate habitat continuity (space)
  - Inadequate water
- **Excess/Insufficient Water**
  - Inefficient use of irrigation water
  - Inefficient moisture management
  - Ponding, flooding, drifted snow
- **Water Quality Degradation**
  - Excessive sediment in surface water
  - Salts in surface and ground water
  - Pesticides & Nutrients in surface and ground water
- **Soil Erosion**
  - Sheet and rill erosion
  - Wind erosion
  - Classic and Ephemeral gully erosion

25% State  
(state projects)



# Priority Resource Concerns for Nebraska

- **Soil Quality Degradation**
  - Organic matter depletion
  - Compaction
  - Concentration of salts or other chemicals
  - Subsidence: Loss of volume and depth of organic soils
- **Inefficient Energy Use**
  - Equipment and Facilities
  - Farming/Ranching practices and field operations
- **Air Quality Impacts**
  - Emissions of Particulate Matter (dust & smoke)
  - Emissions of Greenhouse Gases
  - Emissions of Ozone Precursors
  - Objectionable Odors



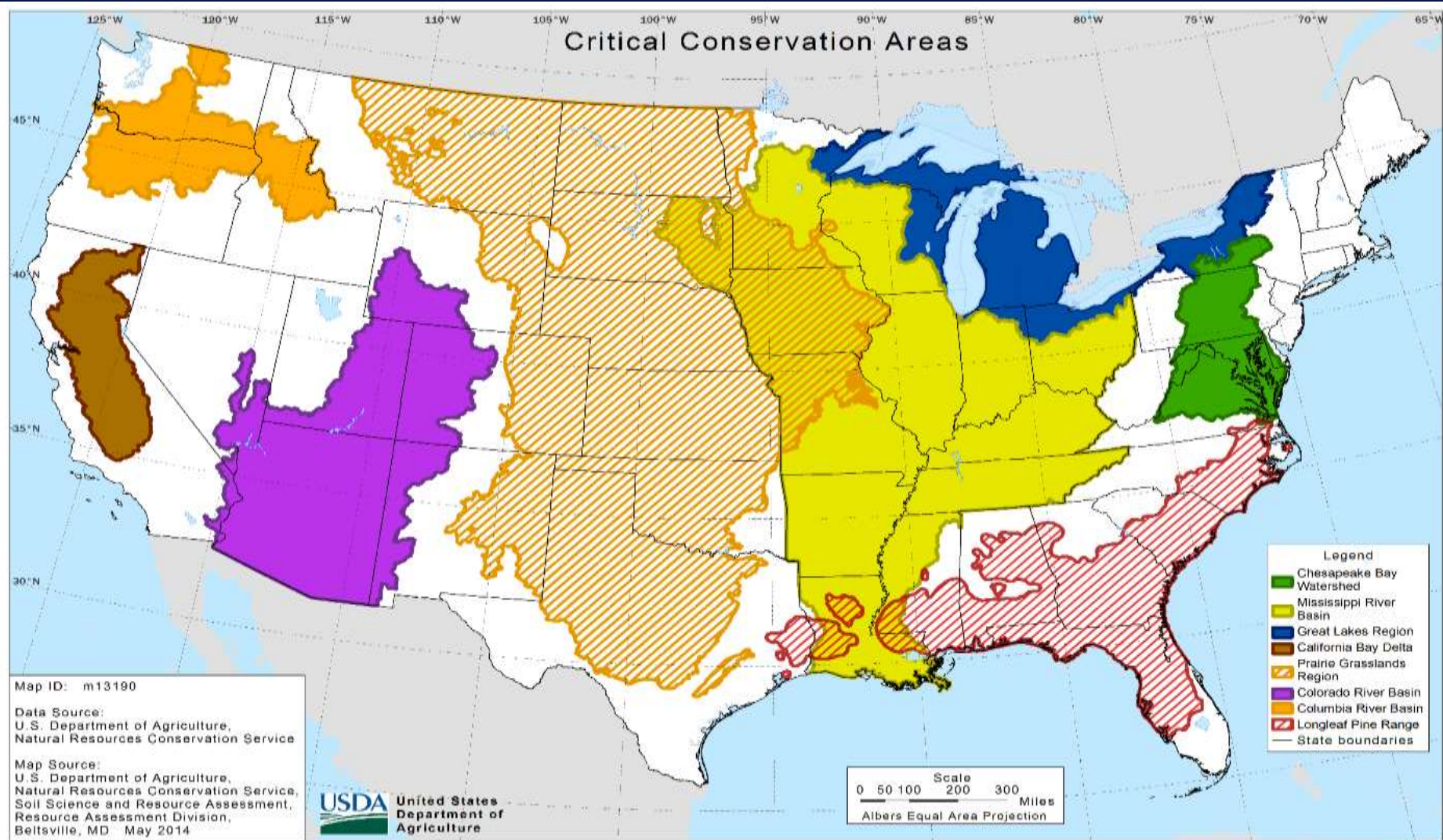
# Critical Conservation Areas

- Allows Secretary to select up to 8 critical conservation areas
- Priority consideration given to geographical areas which:
  - Include multiple States with significant ag production
  - Have an existing agreement or work plans
  - Benefit water quality improvement
  - Benefit water quantity improvement
  - Assist producers to meet natural resource regulatory requirements
- Allows for both Partnership Agreements and for assistance to producers and landowner outside selected partner project areas

# Critical Conservation Areas

1. Great Lakes Region (IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, PA, OH, WI)
2. Chesapeake Bay Watershed (DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV)
3. Mississippi River Basin (AR, KY, IA, IL, IN, LA, MN, MS, OH, SD, TN, WI)
4. Longleaf Pine Range (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA)
5. Columbia River Basin (ID, OR, WA)
6. California Bay Delta (CA)
7. Prairie Grasslands Region (CO, KS, IA, MO, MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, WY)
8. Colorado River Basin (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT, WY)







# Prairie Grasslands Region CCA

- Resource Concern Priorities
  - Degraded Plant Condition:
    - Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
  - Insufficient Water:
    - Inefficient use of irrigation water
  - Excess Water:
    - Runoff, Flooding or Ponding
  - Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife:
    - Habitat degradation



# RCPP APF Timeline

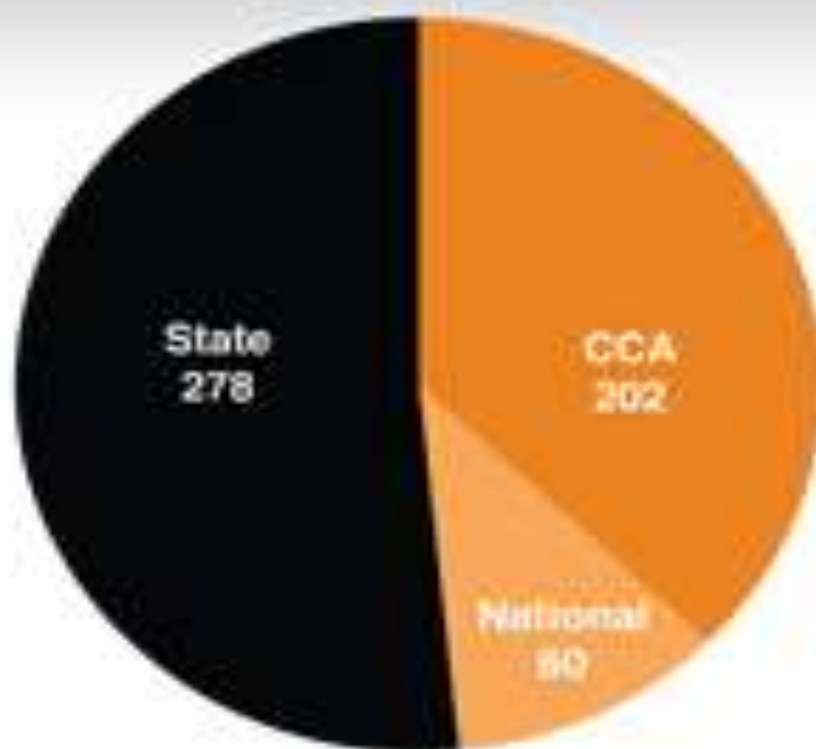
- **May 27, 2014:** Announcement of Program Funding (APF) through grants.gov.
- **July 14, 2014 :** Pre-proposal applications due
- **August 1, 2014:** Announcement of selected pre-proposals. Partners were notified by email of their application status: Ineligible, Not Selected, or Selected for full proposal.
- **October 2, 2014:** Full proposal applications due.
- **November 14, 2014:** Announcement of projects selected for funding.
- Once agreements are signed, partnership activities and obligations may begin.



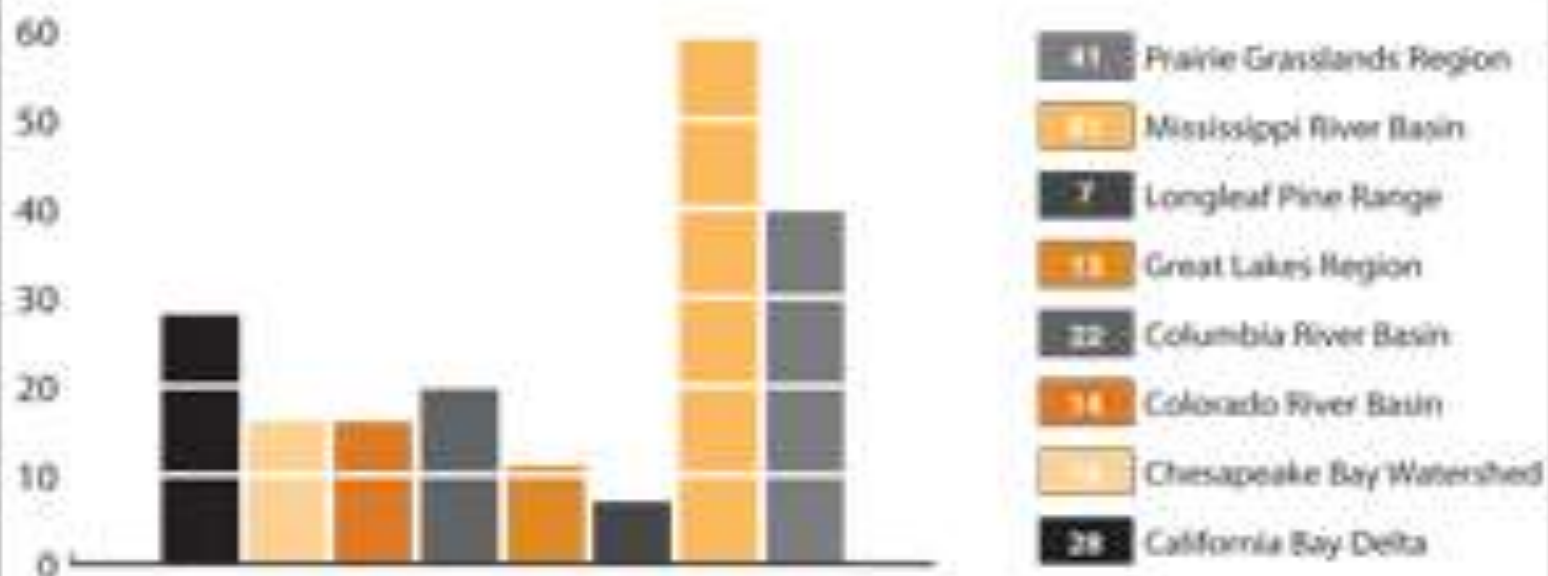
**NRCS received almost 600 pre-proposals, which would call on the potential support of about 5,000 partners.**



**Pre-proposals requested about \$2.8 billion of NRCS funds and were willing to match with about \$3 billion of their own funds.**



**Number of Eligible Pre-proposals  
540 Total.**



**Number of Eligible Pre-proposals**  
**202 Total**



# **RCPP Applications - Nebraska**

- **STATE**
  - Eligible Applications = 8
  - Selected for Full Proposal = 2
- **CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREA**
  - Eligible Applications = 8
  - Selected for Full Proposal = 3
- **NATIONAL**
  - Eligible Applications = 3
  - Selected for Full Proposal = 2

# Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



**FRPP**



**GRP**



**WRP**

# Easement Programs - ACEP

- Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) have been repealed
  - Consolidated into Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Easement deeds remain valid and enforceable.
- Repeal does not effect existing contracts, agreements and easements
  - Funds obligated to valid contracts can still be expended
- NRCS will continue to monitor, manage and enforce easements on FRPP, GRP, & WRP

# ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- ACEP has 2 components
- Agricultural Land Easement Component (ALE)
  - Combines purposes of FRPP and GRP
  - Functions like FRPP
- Wetland Reserve Easement Component (WRE)
  - Retains purpose and function of WRP

# ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Baseline funding for ACEP
  - FY2014 - \$400 million
  - FY2015 - \$425 million
  - FY2016 - \$450 million
  - FY2017 – \$500 million
  - FY2018 - \$250 million
- ACEP will require a new regulation
  - Relatively few new statutory provisions for WRE when compared to WRP.

# **ACEP – Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)**



# ACEP-ALE - Implementation

- **NRCS will continue to administer FRPP and GRP agreements and easements enrolled prior to enactment of the 2014 Act.**
- **Accepted 5 applications for 6 parcels in 2014**
  - **4 Grassland applications**
    - **Received funding for 2 parcels**
  - **1 Agricultural Land Application (not funded)**
  - **Sub-committee responded quickly and with pertinent input to establish ranking**

# ACEP-ALE - Implementation

- **New interest in Easement Programs**
  - Received inquiries from 4 new potential “Eligible Entities”
- **Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (ACEP-ALE-GSS)**
  - Strong interest in Nebraska
  - Many parcels in Western Nebraska and Sandhills are a good fit for the program

# ACEP – ALE Eligible Entities

- **An Entity, capable of contributing to the purchase and management in perpetuity, must be the applicant**
  - Sub-committee will be tasked with assisting NRCS in defining “Eligible Entities”
  - The perpetual investment into monitoring and enforcement of an easement must not be taken lightly
  - NOT open enrollment to landowners like GRP

# ACEP-ALE - Implementation

- ALE-GSS Applications Received = 5
- ALE-GSS Applications Approved = 2
- ALE-GSS Allocation = \$1,008,654
  
- ALE Applications Received = 1
- ALE Applications Approved = 0
- ALE Allocation = \$ 0

# ACEP – ALE Sub-committee FY15

- **Provide guidance regarding appropriate way to advertise eligible entities to the public**
- **Revise ranking criteria**
  - Striving to develop “automated”, resource based ranking
- **Clarify State-level definitions once regulation is published**
  - Eligible Entity

# ACEP - Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)





# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

- Enrollment Options
  - Permanent Easement
  - Reserved Grazing Rights Easements
    - Must be in a landform where grazing can sustain habitat
  - 30-year Easement
  - 30 year contract with Indian Tribes
    - ✓ *Note: WRE eliminates 10-year restoration cost-share only agreements.*

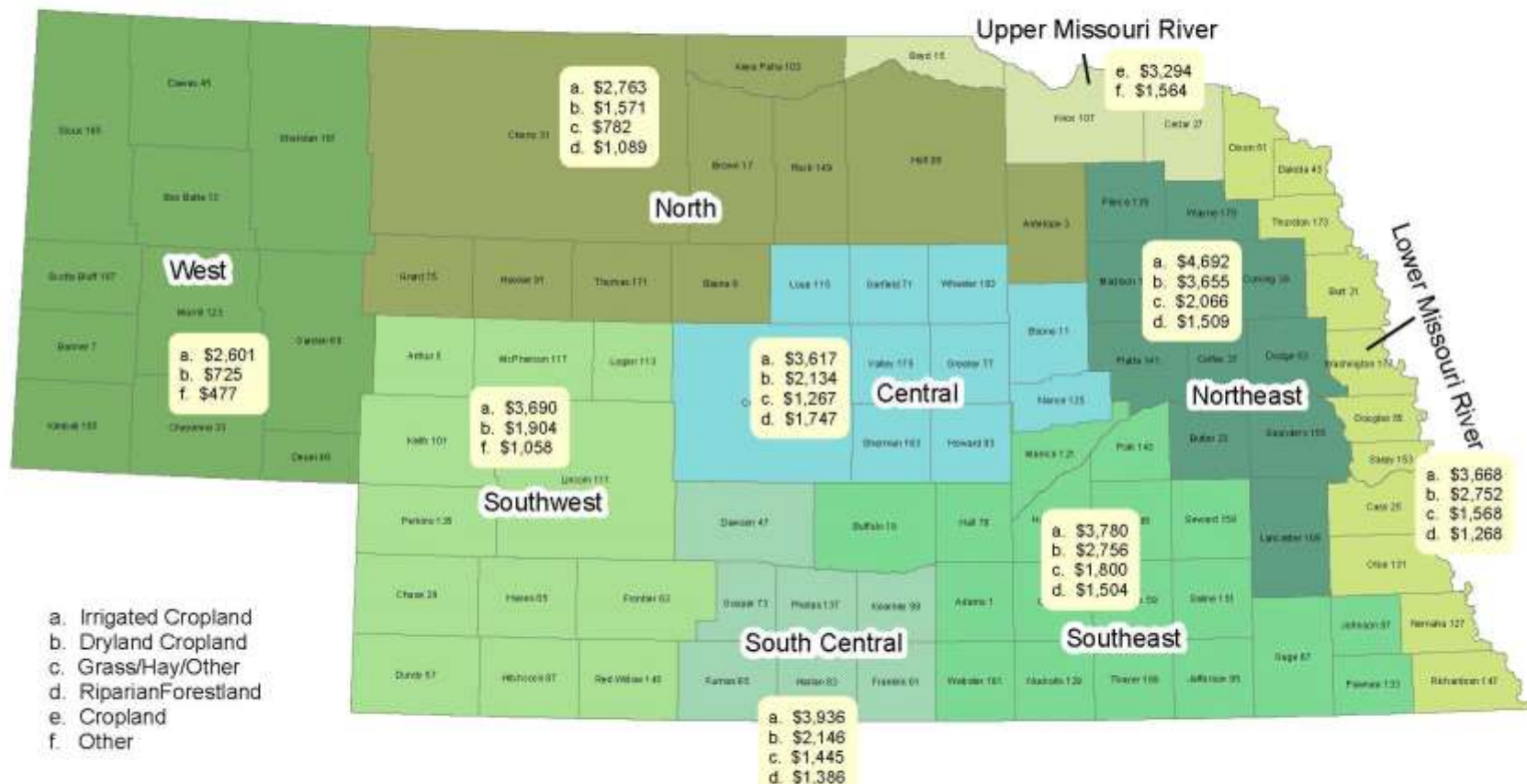
# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

- The enactment of the 2014 Act does not impact or change authority to provide support for easements and agreements obligated under previous legislation.
- The authority to obligate funds from prior year WRP has not yet been restored
  - NRCS is working with OMB and the Treasury to define and restore this authority

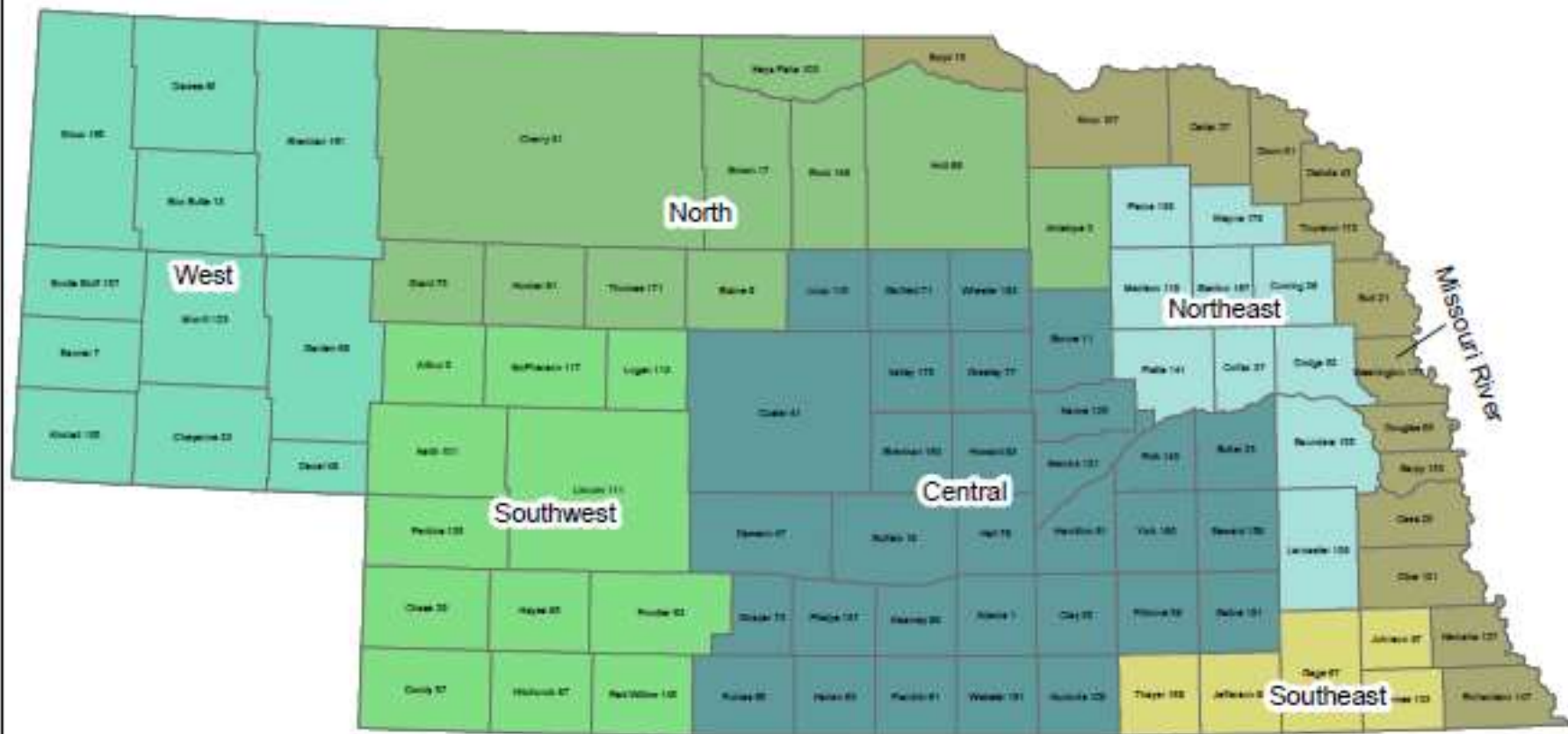
# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) Sub-committee

- Developed and approved a State Land Eligibility guide
  - Defined manageable size and configurations using eFOTG practice standards
  - Established criteria for acceptable waivers
  - Successful in weeding out marginal applications
- Analyzed and Established new GARC boundaries and criteria to improve compensation rates
- Considered geographic and/or resource based funding pools
  - No action finalized since NHQ allocated funds to States in FY14

# Nebraska Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) by land use for FY 2014



# Nebraska Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetlands Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRP) Proposed Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) Boundary for FY 2015



# FY2014 Easement Applications - Allocations

- WRE Applications Received = 43
- WRE Applications Pre-Approved = 7
- WRE Allocation = \$ 2,959,885
  - Includes funding for Restoration, Due Diligence, and Closing



# Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) Sub-committee for FY15

- Revise Land Eligibility Guidance Document
- Consider Ranking Prioritization and Scoring
  - High, Medium, Low
- Review and approve GARC
  - Evaluate potential use of Appraisals
- Acceptable Compatible Uses
  - Violations and Enforcement actions
- Funding Pools

# Nebraska NRCS Operations & WRE Teams



**Team #1:** Upper Niobrara White, North Platte, & South Platte  
 Angie Elg - TL, Oshkosh 308-772-3953  
 Dave Cook - RC, Oshkosh 308-772-3743  
 Mike Brown - CET, Scottsbluff 308-632-2195

**Team #2:** Upper Republican, Twin Platte, & Middle Republican  
 Claudia Stevenson - TL, Grant 308-352-4776  
 Gene Heathers - CET, Imperial 308-882-4263

**Team #3:** Middle Niobrara, Upper Loup, Upper Elkhorn & Lower Niobrara  
 Joel Klammer - TL, Ainsworth 402-387-2242  
 Don Earl - CET, Thedford 308-645-2621

**Team #4:** Lower Loup  
 Jim Lott - TL, St. Paul 308-754-4424  
 Joe Dush - CET, St. Paul 308-754-4424

**Team #5:** Central Platte, Tri-Basin, Lower Republican, Little Blue, Upper Big Blue, Lower Big Blue  
 Jeremy Jirak - TL, Grand Island 308-395-8586  
 Jon Myers - CET, Nelson 402-225-2311

**Team #6:** Lower Platte North, Lower Elkhorn, & Lancaster County  
 Dave Bichlsmeier - TL, Columbus 402-564-0506  
 Ken Kotera - CET, Wahoo 402-443-4106

**Team #7:** Lewis & Clark, Papio Missouri, Nemaha & Cass County  
 Don Doty - TL, Blair 402-426-2625  
 Tim Weltmer - RC, Blair  
 James Kennedy - CET, Blair  
 Mitchell Keebler - CET, Blair  
 Sylvia Thomas, Blair  
 Tyler Janke - Biologist, Syracuse  
 Eric Hopps - Biologist, Syracuse  
 Syracuse Phone #: 402-269-2361  
 Theresa Smydra, RC - Bloomfield 402-373-4914

# Nebraska Easements - Total

- FRPP = 13 on 34,452 acres
- GRP = 13 on 2,190 acres
- EWPP-FPE = 11 on 2,365 acres
- EWRP = 4 on 56 acres
- WRP 30 year = 62 on 6,414 acres
- WRP cost share = 42 on 9,270 acres
- WRP permanent = 534 on 70,993 acres

# Conservation Security Program

CSP from 2004 -  
2008





# Conservation Security Program

- 4 signups in 24 NE counties
- Total Contracts = 2021
- Current Active contracts = 765
- 5 – 10 year contracts
- Acres in Active Contracts = 549,066
- FY14 Payments = \$4,748,110

# Conservation Stewardship Program





# Conservation Stewardship Program Enrollment

- Annual Enrollment Cap (10 million acres)
  - NIPF Acreage Cap lifted
- ACEP Land Eligible (with the exception of wetlands reserve easements)
- Exemption for CRP Transitioning Acres
  - All Contracts 5 Years

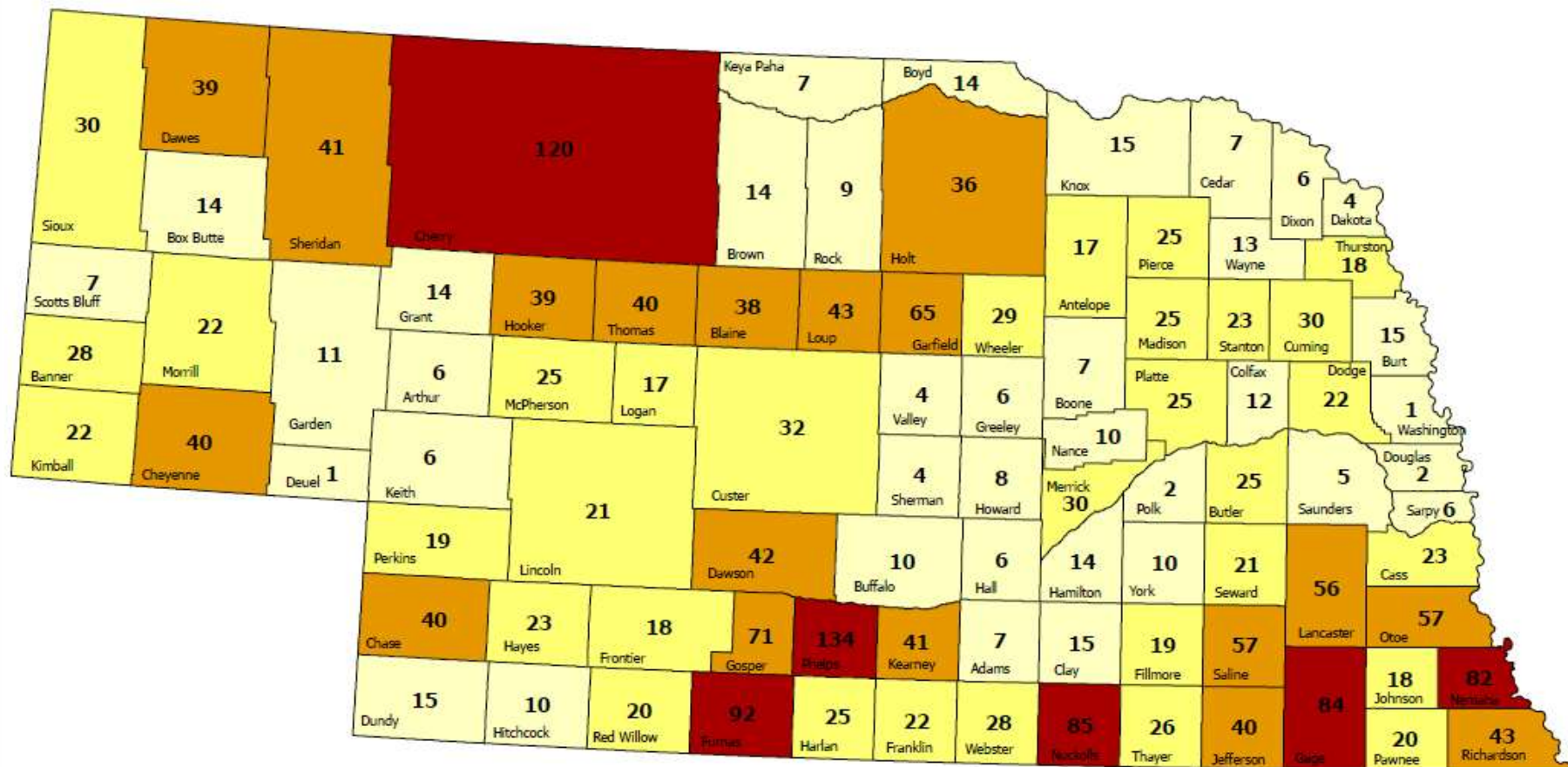
# CStP - Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility: 2 priority resource concerns at time of application, plus 1 at the end of contract
- Renewal Criteria: Be in compliance with current contract and by end of renewal period be able to meet 2 additional priority resource concerns or exceed 2 existing priority resource concerns

# Conservation Stewardship Program Nebraska

- 2008 Farm Bill Signups 2010-1 - 2013
  - Contracts = 2471
  - Total Acres = 4,777,420
  - Annual Payments = \$49,379,905

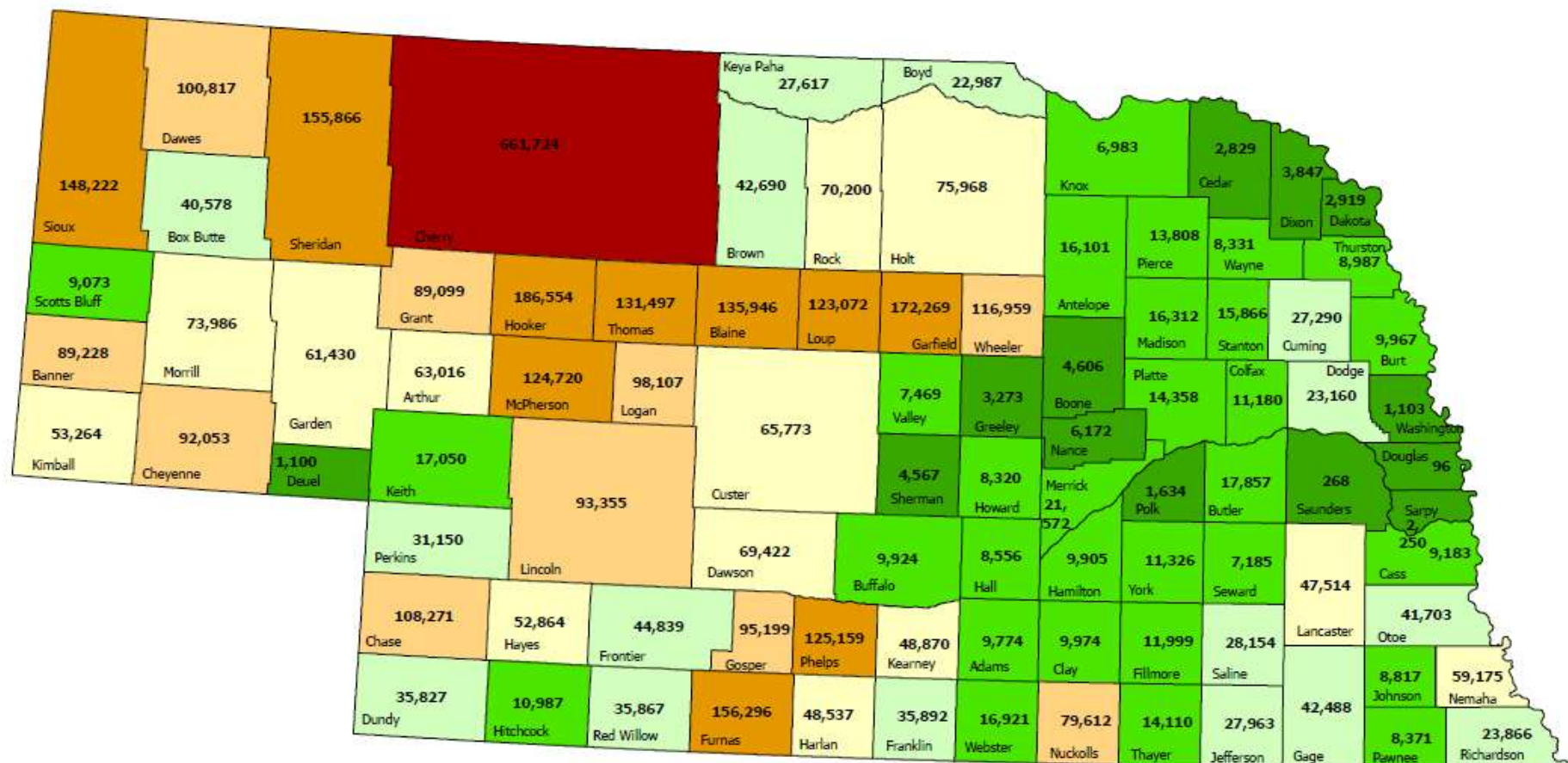
## Conservation Stewardship Program All Active Contracts Thru 2013



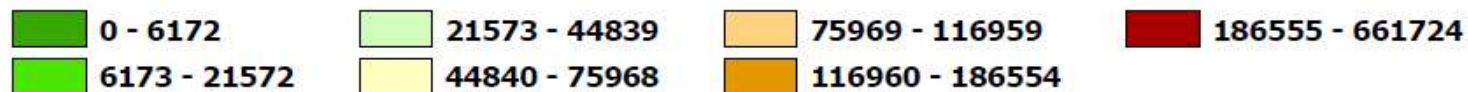
## Contracts



## Conservation Stewardship Program All Acres Thru 2013

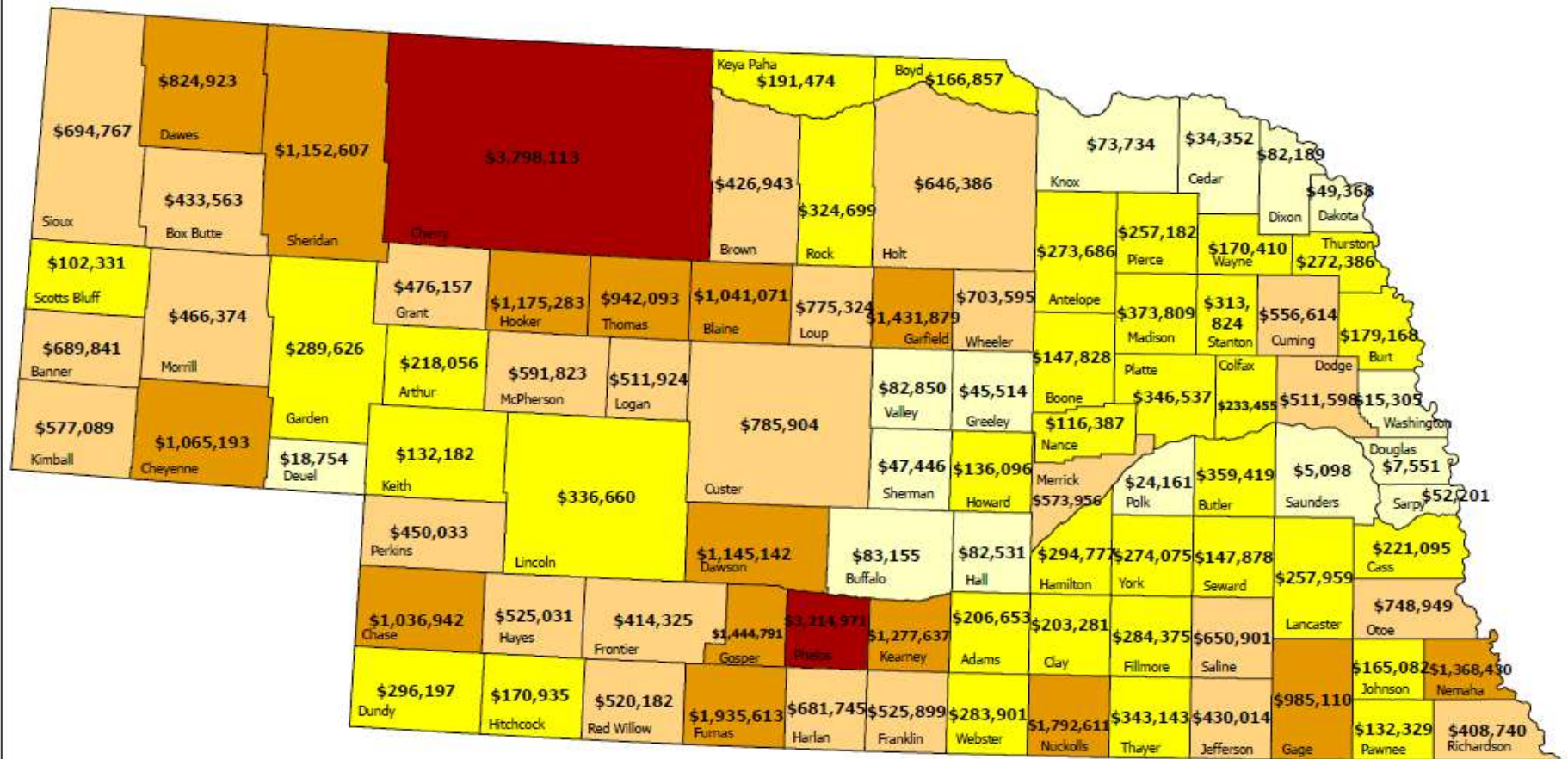


## Acres

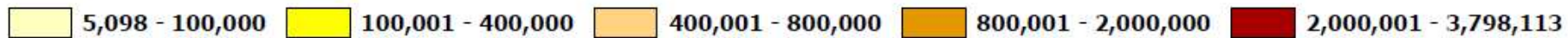




**Conservation Stewardship Program  
Annual Contract Payments per County Through 2013**



## Payments





# Conservation Stewardship Program Nebraska

- 2014 Farm Bill Signup 2014 (projected)
  - Contracts = 384
  - Total Acres = 686,848
  - Annual Payments = \$7,694,172

# Conservation Stewardship Program

- Renewals
  - Agricultural Act of 2014 – authorized CSP contracts can be renewed for one 5-year period.
  - Applications for renewal accepted until Sept 12.
  - Nebraska impacts:
    - 1057 contracts
    - 1.7M acres

# Conservation Stewardship Program Nebraska

- Conservation Impacts
  - Enhancement Activities
    - 75 different activities from all 8 priority resource concerns

# Enhancement Activities

- Popular in Nebraska
  - Drift Reducing Spray Nozzles
  - Wildlife Friendly Fencing
  - Monitor Key Grazing Areas
  - Cover Crops to Break up Compaction
  - Split Application of Nitrogen
  - Irrigation Plant Evaluation
- Complete Listing Available

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## Program Changes:

- Merging EQIP and WHIP
- Minimum 5% of funds for wildlife habitat
- Advanced payments up to 50%
- Re-establishes 60% of funds for livestock practices
- Single EQIP payment limitation \$450,000 FY2014 – FY2018
  - Eliminates waiver provision
  - Eliminates 6 year rolling limit
- Veteran farmers and ranchers eligible for increased payment rates

# Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Baseline funding for EQIP
  - FY2014 - \$1.35 Billion
  - FY2015 - \$1.6 Billion
  - FY2016 - \$1.65 Billion
  - FY2017 – \$1.65 Billion
  - FY2018 - \$1.75 Billion



# EQIP Fund Allocations in 2014



# EQIP Fund Allocations in 2014

- EQIP General \$ 26.7 million
- State Initiatives
  - Livestock Mortality - Blizzard \$60,000
    - 4 counties: Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Cherry
  - Livestock Mortality - Tornado \$80,000
    - 6 counties: Stanton, Wayne, Dixon, Thurston, Cedar, Cuming
  - Drought \$250,000
    - 9 counties: SW Nebraska – D3 or D4

# EQIP Fund Allocations in 2014

## – State Initiatives

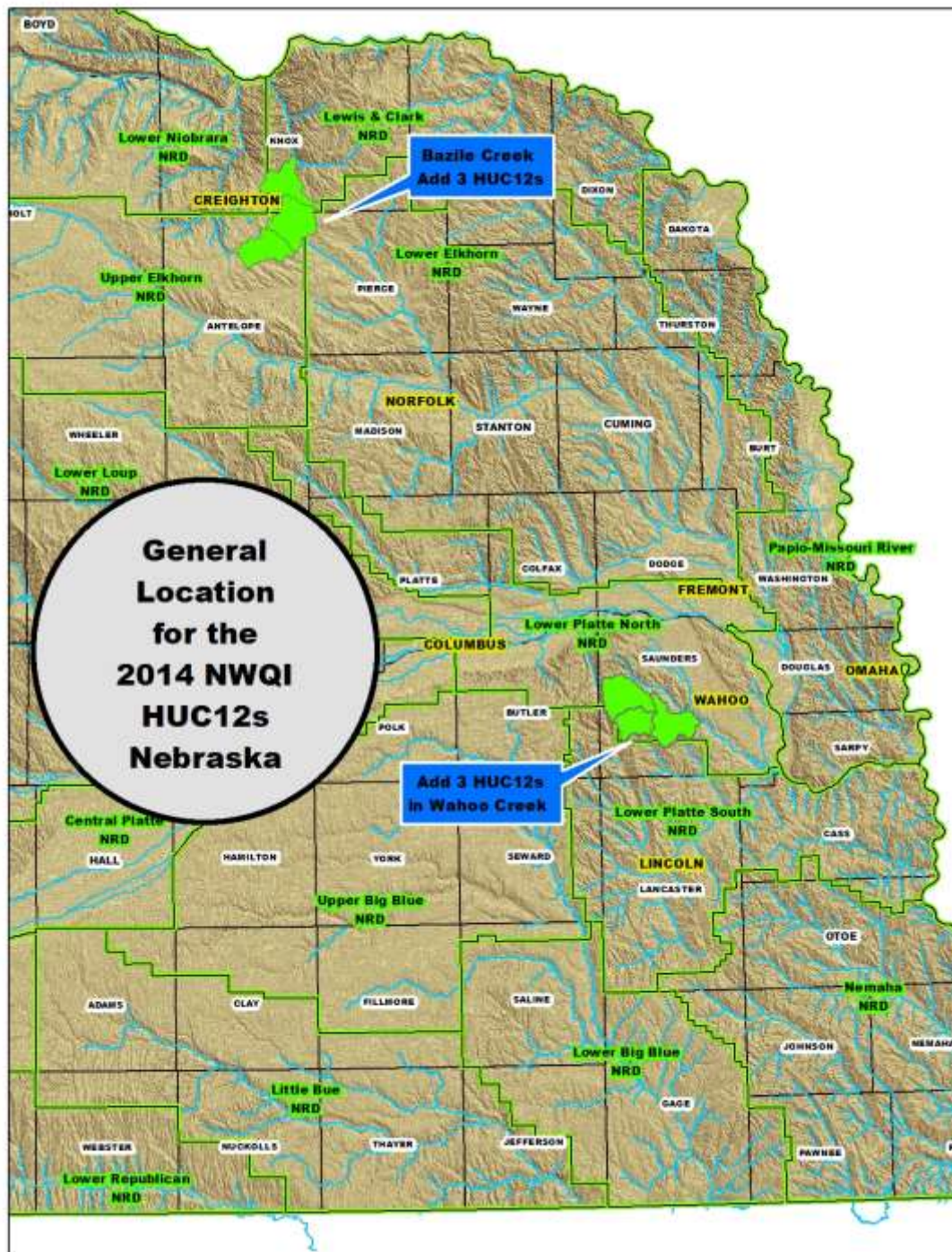
- Forestry \$ 500,000
- Cover Crop – Storm Damage \$ 524,000
- Tribal \$ 100,000
- AFO \$ 1.0 million

# EQIP Fund Allocations in 2014

## – National Initiatives

•NWQI	\$ 1.5 million
–2 watersheds: Bazile Creek, Wahoo Creek	
•Organic	\$ 150,000
•Energy	\$ 25,000
•High Tunnel	\$ 100,000
•Ogallala SI	\$ 8.1 million
•CAP-CNMP	\$ 200,000



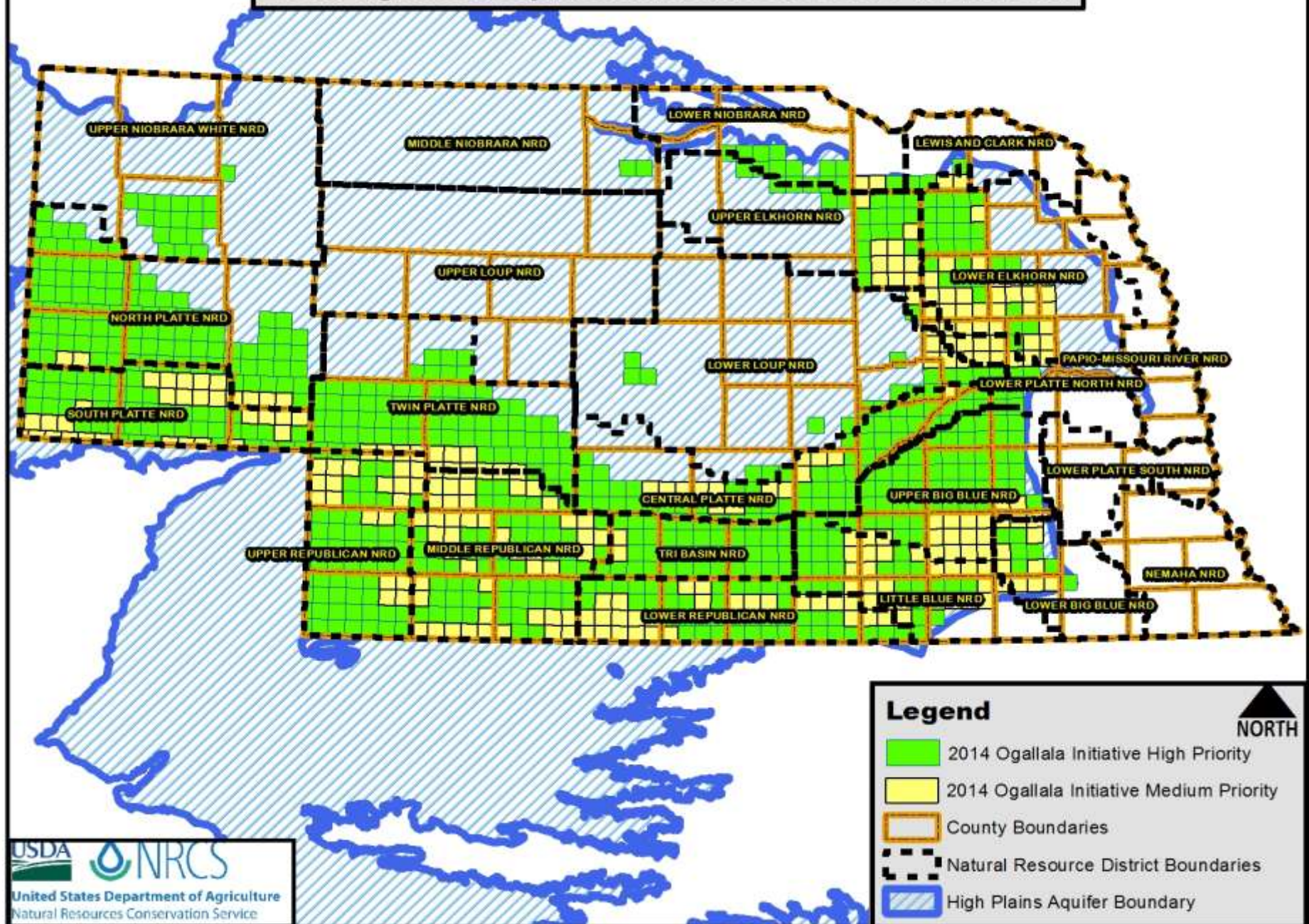


# Ogallala Aquifer Initiative





# 2014 Ogallala Aquifer Initiative Area for Nebraska



# State Technical Subcommittees

- Purpose
  - Analyze and Refine Specific Issues
  - Open to Public but not Required
  - Recommendations presented at STC meetings

# State Technical Subcommittees

- EQIP

- Application Ranking Criteria
- Practice Payment Schedule
- Local Workgroup Recommendations
- Nebraska Environmental Resource Assessment – NERA
- Conservation Innovative Grant - CIG
- Small Farms - Organic
- Animal Feeding Operations Policy
- Irrigation Water Management



# State Technical Subcommittees

- Conservation Stewardship - CStP
  - Nebraska Ranking Pool Areas
  - Priority Resource Concerns
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations
  - Promotional Activities – I&E

# State Technical Subcommittees

- Easements
  - Application Ranking Criteria
  - Eligibility Criteria
  - Local Fund Pools (Wetland Complex)
  - Geographic Area Rate Cap - GARC
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations
  - Management Plans
  - Compatible Use Authority - CUA



# State Technical Subcommittees

- Forestry
  - Application Ranking Criteria
  - Practice Payment Schedule
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations

# State Technical Subcommittees

- Wildlife
  - Application Ranking Criteria
  - Practice Payment Schedule
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations
  - Wildlife Habitat Policy

# State Technical Subcommittees

- Grazing Lands
  - NGLC subcommittee
  - Grazing Land Policy
  - Application Ranking Criteria
  - Practice Payment Schedule
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations

# State Technical Subcommittees

- Soil Health
  - Promotional Activities – I&E
  - Partnership Activities
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations

# State Technical Subcommittees

- Tribal
  - Application Ranking Criteria
  - Agency Consultation
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations
  - Priority Area Designations

# State Technical Subcommittees

- Historically Underserved – Veteran, BFR, LR, SD
  - Application Ranking Criteria
  - Promotional Activities – I&E
  - Local Workgroup Recommendations
  - Partnership Activities



# EQIP - Sub Committee Recommendations – FY15

- Establish State Wildlife Fund Pool – 5%
- Allocate to State pools prior to local
- Add small grain scenario – PPS process
- Reduce fund pools/manage funds locally
- Continue Forestry initiative
- NFS review Forestry applications

✓ Recommendation - Support

# EQIP - Sub Committee Recommendations – FY15

- Change OAI allocation – LWG vs State: Yes
- Limit Cover Crops to one fund pool – No
- Payment cap on cover crops – No consensus
- Pay caps on other management practices – No consensus

# EQIP - Sub Committee Recommendations – FY15

- Practice Payment Schedule Items
  - Pay to convert Crop to Range/Wildlife
  - Pay for pumps in existing wells - policy
  - Increase Access Control payment
  - Increase Prescribed Burning payment
- ✓ Recommendation - Support

# EQIP - Sub Committee Recommendations – FY15

- General Items
  - Modify BFR eligibility rules - Policy
  - Grassland erosion control - Planning
- ✓ Recommendation - Monitor

# FY2015 - EQIP FUND POOLS

# 2015 Local Fund Pools

## Cropland

- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Insufficient Water
- Excess Water
- Water Quality Degradation



# 2015 Local Fund Pools

## Grassland

- Livestock Production Limitation
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Air Quality Impacts

# 2015 Area Fund Pools

Area 1– West, Area 2 – Central  
Area 3 - East

- Cropland – BFR/SD
- Grassland – BFR/SD

# 2015 State Fund Pools

## Wildlife

- Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Habitat
- Inadequate cover / shelter
- Inadequate food
- Inadequate water
- Inadequate habitat continuity (space)

# Agricultural Act of 2014

- WHIP authority rescinded
  - Wildlife Habitat addressed with EQIP
  - “At Least” 5% of funds for wildlife
  - National level tracking in FY14
    - ✓ 16 Core Practices
  - State level requirement in FY15
    - ✓ 16 Core + State Additions

Conservation Cover	327
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390
Riparian Forest Buffer	391
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	395
Aquatic Organism Passage	396
Hedgerow Planting	422
Access Control	472
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580



Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	643
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645
Shallow Water Development and Management	646
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	647
Wetland Restoration	657
Wetland Creation	658
Wetland Enhancement	659

# 2015 State Fund Pools

## Energy

- Inefficient Energy Use
  - Equipment and Facilities
  - Farming / ranching practices and field operations

# 2015 State Fund Pools

- Forestry
- AFO
- Tribal
- High Tunnel
- Organic
- Nebraska Water Quality Initiative

# 2015 State Fund Pools

## Others (?) – FY2014 Special Initiatives

- Drought
- Storm Damage Cover Crop SI
- Atlas Storm Livestock Mortality
- Tornado Livestock Mortality
- BF Ferret

# EQIP Fund Pools FY2015

- **Special Initiatives – National**

- Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

- National Water Quality Initiative

- Wahoo Creek - Saunders

- Bazile Creek – Antelope, Pierce, Knox

# Conservation Innovation Grants

- Competitive Grants Program
  - Stimulate development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands
  - Grantee provides 50% of total cost from non-federal matching funds and TA
- National CIG
  - Regional, multi-State, Nationwide
- State CIG
  - Farm based, multi-county, Statewide
  - FY2014 - Nebraska = 3 Applications



# FY2015 - EQIP ALLOCATION PROCESS

**DRAFT**

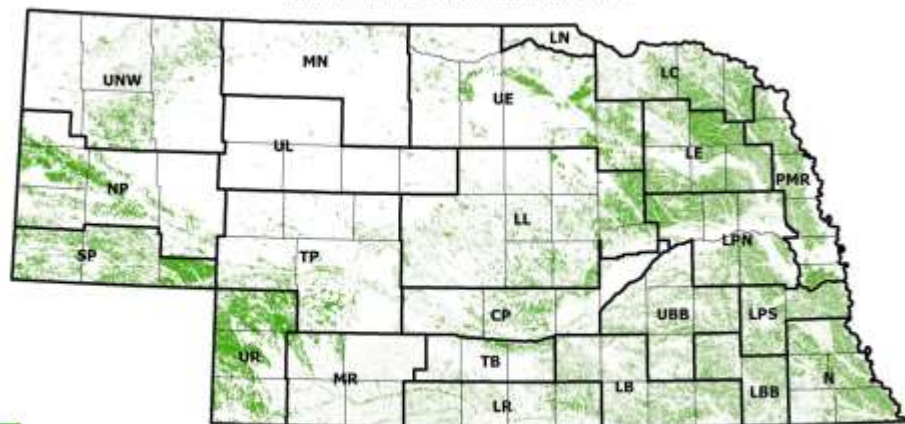
		Total EI Acres - Cropland	Crop Ac Concentrated Flow 28	Total Ac Soil Erosion on Cropland	% of Total Ac Soil Erosion on Cropland	Estimated 2% of all Range with erosion concern (27,515,817 Total Grassland Ac x 2% = 550,361 Ac. Distribution w/in NRDs based on Choppy/Loose Soils	Grassland Ac Concentrated Flow 28	25% Rule of Thumb for grass/range ac for Conc Flow Grassland (% used within the National SRA analysis to indicate potential critical ac)	Total Ac Soil Erosion on Range	% of Total Ac Soil Erosion on Range
CENTRAL PLATTE	CP	210,056	110,396	320,453	3.1%	2,728	380,148	95,037	97,765	4.6%
LEWIS & CLARK	LC	356,662	283,952	640,614	6.3%	91	158,188	39,547	39,638	1.9%
LITTLE BLUE	LB	348,553	102,937	451,490	4.4%	30	136,297	34,074	34,104	1.6%
LOWER BIG BLUE	LBB	212,870	130,668	343,538	3.4%	-	65,723	16,431	16,431	0.8%
LOWER ELKHORN	LE	537,720	427,046	964,756	9.4%	-	71,227	17,807	17,807	0.9%
LOWER LOUP	LL	590,410	386,927	977,337	9.6%	56,184	1,470,053	367,513	423,698	19.9%
LOWER NIobrARA	LN	13,186	4,246	17,432	0.2%	-	21,764	5,441	5,441	0.3%
LOWER PLATTE NORTH	LPN	467,832	374,695	842,527	8.2%	740	92,255	23,064	23,303	1.1%
LOWER PLATTE SOUTH	LPS	243,884	190,014	433,899	4.2%	8	68,658	17,164	17,173	0.8%
LOWER REPUBLICAN	LR	214,416	118,470	332,886	3.3%	883	416,071	106,518	107,401	5.0%
MIDDLE NIobrARA	MN	32,265	-	32,265	0.3%	174,241	536	134	174,375	8.2%
MIDDLE REPUBLICAN	MR	147,867	55,751	203,618	2.0%	12,156	823,289	205,822	217,978	10.2%
NEMAHA	NEM	398,732	295,539	694,271	6.8%	36	125,485	31,371	31,408	1.5%
NORTH PLATTE	NP	476,476	35,058	511,514	5.0%	46,208	534,721	133,680	179,888	8.4%
PACIFIC-MISSOURI RIVER	PMR	344,726	292,800	637,525	6.2%	-	98,712	24,553	24,553	1.2%
SOUTH PLATTE	SP	515,436	45,575	561,013	5.5%	30	107,971	26,993	27,023	1.3%
TRI-BASIN	TB	86,844	29,381	116,224	1.1%	3,358	129,223	32,306	35,664	1.7%
TWIN PLATTE	TP	234,157	23,058	257,215	2.5%	93,304	355,621	88,905	182,209	8.6%
UPPER BIG BLUE	UBB	271,544	94,365	365,709	3.6%	100	46,242	11,561	11,660	0.5%
UPPER ELKHORN	UE	430,120	40,123	460,243	4.5%	21,649	92,790	23,198	44,847	2.1%
UPPER LOUP	UL	9,971	0	9,973	0.1%	94,204	937	234	94,438	4.4%
UPPER NIobrARA WHITE	UNW	303,903	81,606	385,509	3.8%	38,819	965,927	241,482	280,301	13.2%
UPPER REPUBLICAN	UR	644,212	23,182	667,394	6.5%	5,916	348,130	87,013	42,949	2.0%
Total		7,079,832	3,145,568	10,225,401		550,185	6,319,469	1,579,867	2,330,052	



Soil Erosion - Grass/Range		
Sub Concerns: Sheet, rill & wind erosion & Concentrated Flow, Crop, Grassland & Pasture		
FY15 Example Allocation		
NRD	% of State Total	Manual Adjustment
CP	4.6%	
LB	1.6%	
LBB	0.8%	
LC	1.9%	
LE	0.8%	
LL	19.9%	
LN	0.3%	
LPN	1.1%	
LPS	0.8%	
LR	5.0%	
MN	8.2%	
MR	10.2%	
NEM	1.5%	
NP	8.4%	
PMR	1.2%	
SP	1.3%	
TB	1.7%	
TP	8.6%	
UBB	0.5%	
UE	2.1%	
UL	4.4%	
UNW	13.2%	
UR	2.0%	
	100%	
	<u>Practices</u>	
	329	620
	340	
	410	
	412	
	362	
	600	
	638	

SRA Components: 2% of total Grass/Wanger  
Ac at erosion risk (\$50,316 Ac). Those  
Grass/Wanger Ac on Choppy Sand or  
Loess Soils with > 20% slope  
and concentrated flow of Rwy -28 with  
slope >= 6%

Nebraska Soil Erosion - Cropland  
EI of 8 or Greater Cropland and Concentrated Flow Cropland



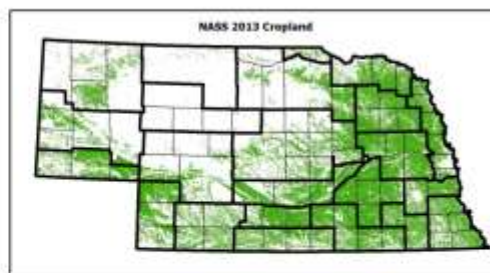
## CDSI Resource Concern - Soil Erosion on Cropland

The map to the left, represents all Cropland acres that have either soils with an EI of 8 or greater or, soils with a Concentrated Flow of slope  $\geq 6\%$  and KW of  $\geq .28$ . Total acres within each NRD were calculated and then the total percentage of the state that each NRD has of these acres, was used to determine the percentage of this resource concern.

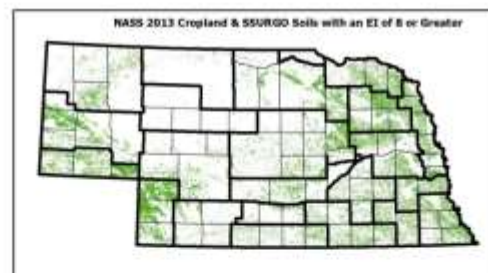
The resulting acres and overall percentages are found on the the first spreadsheet on the Soil Erosion document. The overall percentages for each NRD were then used in the FA allocation for this resource concern.



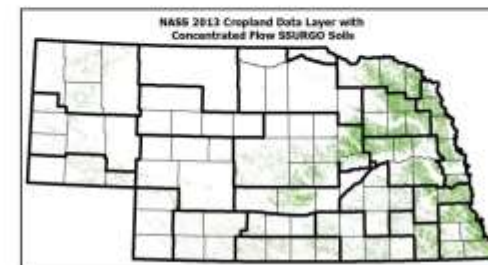
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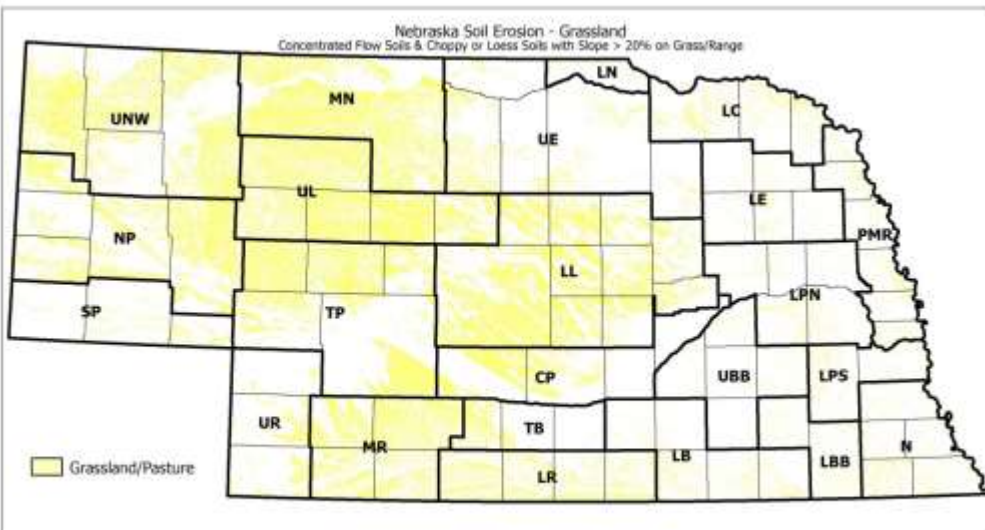
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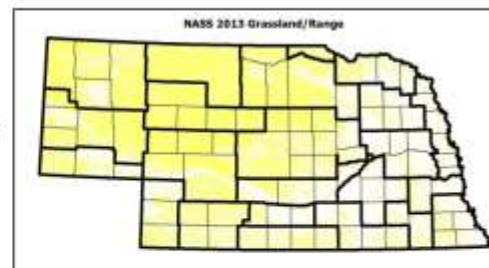
## CDSI Resource Concern - Soil Erosion Grassland

The map to the left, represents all Grassland acres that have either soils with an Concentrated Flow of slope  $\geq 6\%$  and KW of  $\geq .28$ , have Choppy Loess soils with a slope of  $20\%$ . Total acres within each NRD were calculated and then the total percentage of the state that each NRD has of these acres, was used to determine the percentage of this resource concern.

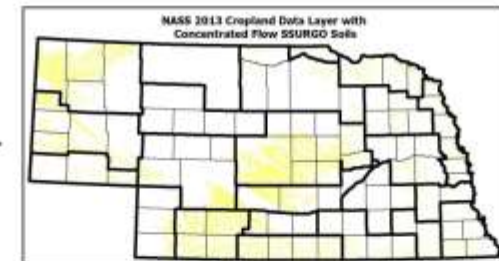
The resulting acres and overall percentages are found on the the first spreadsheet on the Soil Erosion document. The overall percentages for each NRD were then used in the FA allocation for this resource concern.



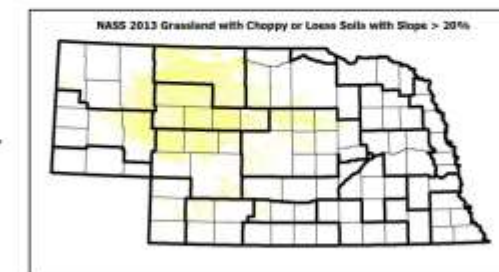
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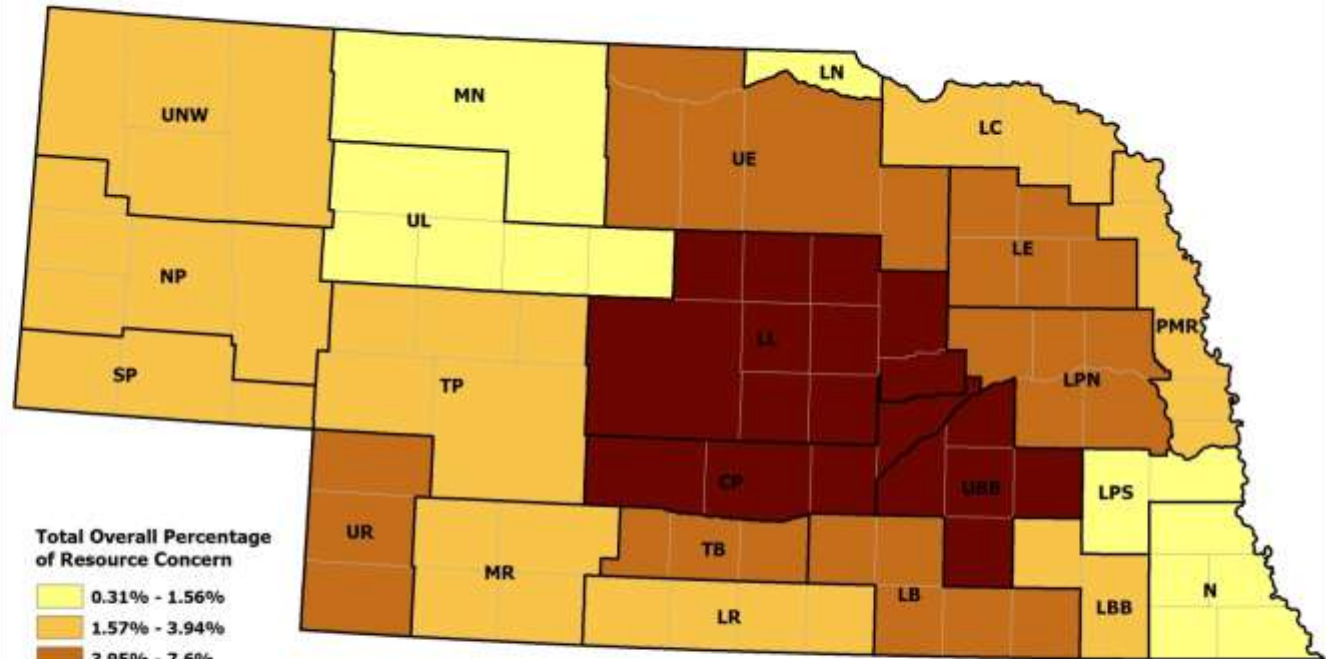


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## Resource Concern: Irrigation Water Management on Cropland



This map represents all factors listed below by the overall percentage that each NRD has of the individual resource factors. Those factors are: Total Irrigated Acres, Active Irrigation Wells, USGS 2005 Acres Surface Irrigated, NASS 2013 Total Cropland Ac

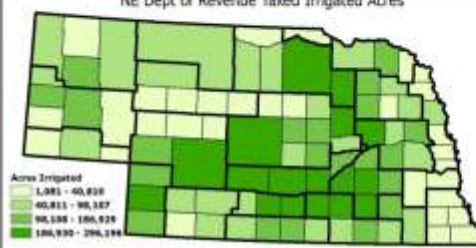
USGS 2005 Estimated Water Use - Ac Crops Irrigated from Surface Water; 2013 NE Dept. of Revenue Taxable Irrigated Ac, NDNR Registered Wells, Active Irrigation Wells, 2/2014  
2013 NASS Cropland Data Layer - Cropped Fields

Map Date: 7/2014, By: E. Klenke

USGS Total Irrigation Water Use - 2005



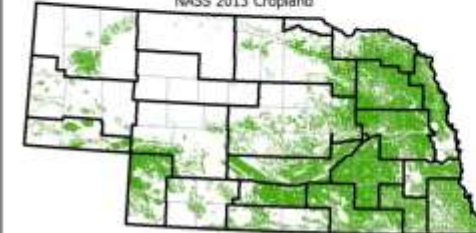
NE Dept of Revenue Taxed Irrigated Acres



Active Irrigation Wells



NASS 2013 Cropland



# FY2015 EQIP Signup

- FY2015 Application Cutoff
  - October 17, 2014
- FY2015 Ranking Cutoff
  - January 30, 2015



- Handouts
  - EQIP subcommittee Meeting Minutes
  - FY15 EQIP Fund Allocation
  - CSP Practice & Enhancement list
  - RCPP Full Proposal list

## CONSERVATION PROGRAM REGULATIONS – Interim Rule Request For Comment

- State Technical Committee Procedures
- RCPP References
- HFRP – Acreage owned by Indian Tribes
- Regional Equity Provisions
- VPA-HIP – Administration: FSA to NRCS
- TSP – Delegated Official changes
- Other

# Questions?

